

# INDIANA

## HISTORY BULLETIN



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The *Indiana History Bulletin* is published monthly by the Historical Bureau with the co-operation of the Indiana Historical Society. It is distributed without charge to members of that society, to members of the county historical societies, and to libraries in the state. For a charge of fifty cents any person may receive the *Indiana History Bulletin* for one year. Address communications and contributions to the Historical Bureau.

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## DICTIONARY OF INDIANA HISTORY

THE Historical Bureau is studying a new kind of publishing project. As it is a venture requiring the co-operation of many persons in Indiana as writers, and certain preliminary steps have been taken, an explanation is in order.

The proposal, in brief, is to compile and publish a one-volume encyclopedia of state history. It is tentatively entitled a *Dictionary of Indiana History*, modeled after the popular and useful *Dictionary of American History* in six volumes. Various topics in state history—events, places, movements, and institutions—will be the subjects of short articles, ranging from identifications or definitions of fifty words up to explanations of two thousand words. The articles will be arranged in alphabetical order, of course, for ready reference.

To obtain even a rough idea of the contents and length of such a volume, much work has had to be done. A list of topics has been compiled, covering all fields of activity and knowledge and broken down into component parts. These number about 1300 entries. The list has been mimeographed in limited quantity and sent to various scholars and specialists in the state who have been asked to make additions or deletions. This method is the best insurance against omitting any relevant topic.

The next step will be to assign an arbitrary word length to each article, or perhaps strike an average word length for all articles. Only in this way can the total number of words be ascertained and the cost of production. The Historical Bureau expects to be able to print the book out of its regular state appropriation. However, it hopes to be able to offer modest remuneration to several score experts to prepare the articles on topics in which they possess special knowledge. Probably a quarter of the articles can be prepared in the office of the Historical Bureau, but it is desirable and even necessary to farm out the majority of the topics to persons of recognized



competence. In this way an authoritative and reliable reference work will be produced, one that is indispensable in the library, the school, the business office, and the home.

Details remain to be worked out by the Historical Bureau under the authorization of the Indiana Library and Historical Board. The volume probably cannot appear for a couple of years. It is a major undertaking that derives all its value from being carefully planned and executed. Its final sale price will be kept close to cost. In view of its widespread interest to Hoosiers, a plan for sale through the county historical societies, with a small commission going to them, may be developed.

No biographical sketches will be included in this *Dictionary*. If it is successful, a companion volume of short Indiana biographies might be attempted. Of course, many men and women will be mentioned in connection with events and places, and their names will be brought out in the copious index of the *Dictionary*. Similarly, there will be numerous cross references to related articles within the volume. Once written, the authoritative articles will be rendered as serviceable as possible.

Only one other state, Texas, is attempting such a state encyclopedia. We believe such a reference work will find a useful place for itself. Your interest is invited.

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#### INDIANA JUNIOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The annual convention of the high school history clubs that make up the Indiana Junior Historical Society was held at Fortville on April 26. The Fortville History Club was host.

A program was offered in which several clubs told of their liveliest projects during the year. Richard Haupt, field historian of the Historical Bureau, suggested further approaches to history through photography, autograph interests, collecting, model making, etc. After the election of state officers for the next school year and the award of an Achievement Trophy and Indiana University scholarships, a social hour concluded the day's activities.

## FOR BLIND CHILDREN

TO enlarge its services to the state in the field of history the Historical Bureau has had its popular *Indiana Historical Leaflets* put on records for blind children to enjoy. These five leaflets, designed for the fourth to sixth grades, have been widely used in the public schools. They are available free of charge from the Historical Bureau, supplied in quantities so that each pupil may have the set of five.

For a time they were the only literature on Indiana history written in the fourth-grade vocabulary. Now a textbook, *Living in Indiana*, by Joy M. Lacey, of Indiana State Teachers College, has been widely adopted. Still the children at the Indiana School for the Blind and all other children having impaired vision have been deprived of these histories that were produced for their age groups. One record has been presented to the Blind School, and the others deposited with the State Library's Service for the Blind, where they may be borrowed.

The State Library and Historical Board authorized this record making, and the production was made by the American Printing House for the Blind at Louisville. The five leaflets have been put on one fine-line recording by a professional reader. We hope they will be utilized and enjoyed in this new form. In time the Bureau's popular *Brief History of Indiana* may be put on records, too, for adults.

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HOOSIER HISTORICAL TOURS

The Hoosier Historical Tours will be continued in 1952, sponsored again by Indiana University, Purdue University, Indiana State Teachers College, Ball State Teachers College, and the Historical Bureau. Dr. I. George Blake, of Franklin College, again will lead the week-end caravans.

The first tour is scheduled for May 17-18. A printed leaflet detailing all eight of the tours (four in May and June and four in September and October) is being printed and will be sent to all libraries and all members of the Indiana Historical Society. Other persons may have one on request.



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL INSTITUTE

THE second annual workshop, or Indiana History Institute, was marked by great success. It was held at Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park, April 6-9, amid unequaled beautiful weather. Sixty-five persons attended, an increase of a dozen over the first year's Institute.

The three classes, held each day, attracted everyone. Wilbur Peat, director of the John Herron Art Museum, conducted one course on art and architecture in the state. His illustrated lectures opened new vistas to his audience. Glenn A. Black, the Historical Society's archaeologist, told the story of the state's first Indian inhabitants as reconstructed from the rich material culture left behind. Genealogists enjoyed talks on research methods by Eleanor Peterson, head of the State Library's genealogy division, and on immigration routes to Indiana by Dr. Roy M. Robbins of Butler University. Robert Starrett, director of the State Museum, lectured to the "students" at the park museum, explaining the types of displays.

Special speakers and entertainment were provided for all inn guests each evening. The first night there was music and movies. On the second night, Margaret Weymouth Jackson, eminent author from neighboring Spencer, spoke delightfully of family traditions as material for story writing. On the final evening Dr. Donald F. Carmony of Indiana University discussed his approach to state history and some of the problems it poses in connection with the new state history that Dr. Barnhart and he are writing.

These Institutes are showing such popularity that there is a demand to make them annual affairs. By delving into subject fields, various aspects of state history can be examined. The program was originally designed to attract county museum curators and county historical society officers. It is succeeding in this direction, but more such persons should attend—if only to see what a good time they have been missing. As an instrument of instruction, the institute idea has much to recommend it here in Indiana, where the facilities of our state park hotels are both ideal and inexpensive.

New York appears to be the only other state offering a similar program of concentrated study in a vacation atmosphere. With a loyal following of "alumni," the Indiana program should grow, for there is nothing else like it in the state in adult education and every year it can be different. Ideas for next year's program and for improving the services will be welcomed by the Historical Bureau. Incidentally, the Bureau's director has been asked to serve on the staff of New York state's "Seminar" next July. There he will have an opportunity to study that program and pick up ideas that may be utilized in Indiana.

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### INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

New members enrolled in the Indiana Historical Society from March 15 to April 14 include C. A. Barden, Oberlin, Ohio; Thomas L. Brisch, La Grange Park, Ill.; Willis S. Bryant, Kilmarnock, Va.; Mrs. Max Shepherst, Maumee, Ohio; Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, Mo.; Earl M. Hoff, Bloomington; John Louis Heineman, Connersville; Emmaline Peebles, Hagerstown; Dr. William Burleigh Matthew, Thomas M. Scanlon, William Donald Siedlecki, James Roscoe Stevenson, Roland G. Usher, Jr., Indianapolis; Douglas Fresh, Jeffersonville; Orval Ray Partlow, Muncie; Glenn School Fourth Grade, E. Lucile Whitecotten, Helen Reeve, Terre Haute.

The train excursion to Springfield, Ill., on May 24 had to be cancelled, as only about fifty reservations were received toward the 200 that were necessary.

An index and title page for the *Indiana History Bulletin*, volume 28 (1951) has been printed. It has been mailed to all public libraries in the state and is available free to individuals who request it.

## NEWS OF THE LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

ALLEN COUNTY—At a meeting of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society in March, Dr. George W. Gillie was elected president; Robert C. Harris, first vice-president; Albert H. Diserens, second vice-president; John H. Craig, treasurer; Dr. Jesse C. Calvin, parliamentarian. Mrs. Edna F. Cox resigned as secretary but will serve until a successor is named.

JEFFERSON COUNTY—The old Antioch neighborhood, just west of Madison, was the subject of a talk by John Gabel, of Hanover, at the meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Society, April 1, at the public library, Madison. He told of the early immigrants, for the most part from Germany and Scotland, who settled along what is now State Road 256 nearly a century ago. Mr. Gabel pointed out that those early settlers, specialists in the manufacture of axes, hackles, wagons, rope, charcoal, and other products, built up a highly industrial area which played an important part in the growth of that locality.

JOHNSON COUNTY—A collection of fans from various parts of the world, which was bequeathed to the D.A.R.—Johnson County Historical Museum, Franklin, by the late Herriott Palmer, was displayed for the first time at the museum late in March. Other recent gifts are to be arranged for display soon. The museum, located in the courthouse, is maintained under the auspices of the local D.A.R. chapter.

LAPORTE COUNTY—Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Vail were hosts on March 12 to some fifty members of the Michigan City Historical Society at an old-time party at their home. Most of the members came attired in costumes of an earlier era with handsome dresses, cloaks, capes, bonnets, and shawls much in evidence. The program consisted of several talks by officers of the society. Mr. Vail reviewed briefly phases of the county's history and displayed a copy of the *Michigan City Gazette* of 1836. Miss Edna Kitchell presided during the program. Lorenz G. Schumm, of LaPorte, president of the LaPorte County Historical Society, was a guest. The meeting



concluded with the serving of old-time refreshments at tables laid with silver and chinaware which had been in the Vail family for many years.

PORTER COUNTY—The Historical Society of Porter County held its spring meeting on Sunday afternoon, April 6, in the assembly room of the courthouse, Valparaiso, with a gratifying attendance. President Norris D. Coombs, of Chesterton, presided and named A. A. Finney, Mrs. Alfred R. Putnam and Louis Menke a committee to assist with local plans in connection with the Hoosier Historical Tour to be held in that vicinity, June 14-15.

The program centered in the subject, "Fishing and other industries of the Lake region in days gone by," with Richard Sabinske as guest speaker. He was assisted by Mr. Menke, Arthur Anderson, and C. Will Nelson, with Mr. Menke acting as moderator in a lively discussion. It was announced that Olga Schiemann had prepared and donated a brochure of "Roads Across Old Baillytown," and is now preparing one on the "Joseph Bailly Family and Homestead." Both are to be placed in the Bailly room at the museum. Joseph Bailly was Porter County's first white settler. Preceding the meeting, members and guests enjoyed a visit to the museum.

The Duneland Historical Society, Chesterton, marked the centennial of the publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom Cabin* at its meeting on March 20. The meeting was held at Ogden Dunes on Lake Michigan in the firehouse. Apropos of the anniversary, William A. Briggs, Porter County historian, gave an informative talk on the Underground Railroad which existed before and during the Civil War days in the northern part of the county.

PUTNAM COUNTY—The Putnam County Historical Society held a meeting February 27 at the Memorial Union Building, DePauw University, Greencastle. Dr. A. W. Crandall completed his account of the Battle of Gettysburg which he read in part at the January meeting. A dinner meeting of the society was held March 26 at Old Trail Inn, near Greencastle. Special guests of the occasion were the winners in the essay

contest conducted by the society in the various high schools of the county. Roachdale High School, as the school of the winner, was awarded the plaque which will hang in the trophy case at the school for a year. The program, which was devoted to the old-time, one-room country school, included reminiscent talks by Dr. Crandall, Mrs. Walter Evans, Professor Herbert Heller, Mrs. Addie Busby, Miss Carrie Pierce, Dr. George Manhart, Sanford Romine, Dr. O. F. Overstreet, Mrs. Helen Eiteljorg, and Dr. T. A. Sigler. Professor E. R. Meneff, of the Agricultural Experimental Station, Purdue University, was a guest.

RIPLEY COUNTY—The annual meeting of the Ripley County Historical Society was to be held at the home of Miss Violet Toph, Versailles, on March 30. A general discussion on local history was to be featured.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY—During March the Northern Indiana Historical Society Museum, South Bend, registered 736 visitors, of whom 183 were from 12 other states, and Paris, France. Local visitors included groups of Camp Fire girls, Blue Birds, and Cub Scouts from South Bend, Nappanee, Mishawaka, Berrien Springs, Michigan, and other nearby places. Included among gifts were a Chinese bank note, stereoscope views of South Bend, photographs, diaries, album of 1862, letters of early families, stone meal grinder, and miscellaneous items.

SHELBY COUNTY—The Shelby County Historical Society has received recently a number of historical items for its prospective museum. Among them are books, papers and old costumes, including a complete wedding ensemble, two copies of the first history of Shelby County, a number of letters written by a Civil War veteran dating from 1843 to 1865, Indian relics and a mastodon tooth found near Boggstown in 1906. The society at present does not have quarters in which to display its historical material which is now stored in the courthouse at Shelbyville.



TIPPECANOE COUNTY—The meeting of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association on Sunday afternoon, March 23, at the museum, Lafayette, featured a talk by Judge William B. Smith, of Delphi, on "Boom Days on our Waterways," in which he told of the building of the Wabash and Erie Canal, early river and canal navigation, and industries which sprang up along the canal. Professor Frank Hall presided.

UNION COUNTY—At the meeting of the Union County Historical Society early in March at the society's museum in the courthouse, Liberty, a discussion was held concerning the preservation of the Dunlapville covered bridge in that locality. Suggestions were made about the possibility of repairing the old landmark and it was voted to investigate this project further. An election of officers was held: Leland L. Bond, president; Irving Lafuze, vice-president; Mrs. Bertha LaMar, secretary-treasurer. The program also included a musical selection played by Mrs. Albert D. Johnson on the museum organ, and an informal talk by Mr. Lafuze on his recent trip to Florida.

VIGO COUNTY—Dr. David Koch, of the Indiana State Teachers College, gave a talk on "Influence of geography on the history of the Ohio Valley," at a meeting of the Vigo County Historical Society, March 11, at the Fairbanks Public Library, Terre Haute. Interesting information on why people migrated from one area to another in the early days was brought out by the speaker. The society recently received from William V. Cahill, of the Terre Haute Savings Bank, several boxes of papers of the late Russell B. Harrison, son of President Benjamin Harrison, which had been stored for years in the bank's basement. Much of the material, dating from about 1890 to 1897, consists of family and business correspondence.

WABASH COUNTY—Approximately 160 members and guests of the Wabash County Historical Society paid tribute to Mrs. Leola Hockett at a dinner, March 18, at the Honeywell



Memorial Center, Wabash. Mrs. Hockett plans to retire as curator of the museum in the near future after serving in that capacity for 29 years. Mrs. James Van Buskirk, of Roann, president, presided. Reminiscent talks relating to the society's career and Mrs. Hockett's close association with it were given by Mrs. Leroy Dennis, daughter of Dr. P. G. Moore, one of the society's founders, Howard Sundheimer, and R. B. Whitsett, of Logansport. The principal speaker, Dr. R. Carlyle Buley, of Indiana University, gave a talk on the value to future generations of a local museum and a knowledge of pioneer history. A resolution prepared by the Wabash Chamber of Commerce extending appreciation and admiration to Mrs. Hockett was read by Judge Byron Kennedy. Following his remarks Mrs. Van Buskirk presented to Mrs. Hockett a new portable typewriter as a gift from the society.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held on March 29 in the museum rooms at the courthouse, Salem. John Weathers spoke on the Wyman family, of Washington County, descended from Henry Wyman, a Hessian soldier. Mr. Weathers quoted from a history of the family recently published by John McCullough Wyman. Many descendants of this pioneer family are still living in the county. Roy E. Hardin presented to the society a copy of the *History of the Stark Family*, which he prepared and has had printed.

## ANNIVERSARIES

GIBSON COUNTY—The Methodist Church at Owensville marked its centennial anniversary with an all-day program and basket dinner on Sunday, April 6. A brief sketch of the church appeared in the *Princeton Clarion-News* of March 30.

PUTNAM COUNTY—Fillmore is preparing to celebrate its centennial anniversary from June 18 to 21. The four-day observance, which is being sponsored by the Fillmore Lions Club, is to include a parade, crowning of a centennial queen, band concerts, square dancing, displays of old relics, and other entertainment. C. N. Phillips is general chairman.

RIPLEY COUNTY—Batesville is preparing for its centennial celebration early in August with a week-long festival and pageant.

SHELBY COUNTY—Fairland has a centennial coming up and is reported to be planning an observance.

## BOOKS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS

According to an announcement in the *Steuben Republican*, Angola, of March 12, plans are now on foot for the establishment of a permanent display of Indian relics at Potawatomi Inn, Pokagon State Park. Interested citizens in Angola and other localities of Steuben County are promoting the collection and preservation of Indian artifacts found in that area where the Potawatomi tribe once roamed. Lynn Munger, of Nevada Mills, one of the largest collectors, has attracted much attention to the specimens he has exhibited at the Inn from time to time. Now the Division of State Parks, Indiana Department of Conservation, has submitted blue prints for the construction of permanent cases to be installed at the Inn for an extensive display.

The Fort Vallonia chapter of the D.A.R., Seymour, plans to issue about May 1 a booklet pertaining to the early history and genealogical records of Jackson County. John A. Shields, of Seymour, is assembling and editing the material furnished by the chapter and from public records. Mrs. D. J. Cummings, of Brownstown, historian of the chapter, sketched plans for the booklet.

The *Greensburg Daily News*, beginning April 2, carried a series of three articles in succeeding issues by Smiley Fowler dealing with legends and traditions of towns in Decatur County. Interesting stories of early communities of that area were recounted.

Donald G. Bouma, of R. R. 5, Goshen, has drawn and published an historical map of "New France" in the style of the early eighteenth century maps. He calls it *Carte Partie Occidentale de la Nouvelle France ou Canada*. From his study of French maps of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries he has taken data to put on his own map as a "blueprint" or visual aid to the study of French exploration of the St. Lawrence Valley, the Great Lakes, and the Ohio River Valley. Every fort, mission, and Indian trie is indicated. The map is printed in colors and is highly decorative. It may be framed for hanging or studied for its information. Copies may be had from Mr. Bouma at \$2.50 each.





